

Chairman's Report/Executive Directors Report: January 25, 1996

NOTE: Closed Session is scheduled to precede the regular meeting.

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1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Turn over to Margit for roll call.

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2. Public Comments.

PAT: This is the time for public comments on matters NOT on the agenda. Are there any public comments?

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3. Minutes of the December 15, 1995 meeting.

PAT: Are there any corrections to the draft minutes? Needs a MOTION, and SECOND. Voice vote.

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4. Chairman's Report.

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 1996, to be held here in the Jean Harvie Community Center.

You have received at your seats copies of several letters sent by groups and individuals in the Contra Costa County area of the Delta complaining about another noxious plant--*Egeria densa*--that is creating problems in the waterways. While the Commission cannot discuss a matter not on the agenda, I want to seek advice from the Commission about agendaizing this item, the purpose of any future discussion, and any other insights you might have.

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5. Report from Budget, Finance, and Administration Subcommittee.

PAT: Call on Steve Sekelsky.

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6. Attorney General's Report

Call on Rick Frank.

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7. Executive Director's Report.

Call on MARGIT.

PACKET: Copy of amended report to the Governor and Legislature.

GIS: We met with Teale Data Center, almost all the data has gone to CEDR; they are continuing to work on the last data that is going into the GIS. CEDR is working on the homepage and data translations. We hope to have everything up and running soon.

Recreation Survey: The pre-survey work is underway. This is a small scale survey to prepare for the full, final survey. Cards have been mailed to boaters and will be going out next week to fishermen. The questionnaire will go out shortly to boaters; and after that to fishermen.

Senator Johnston and Assemblyman Rainey have agreed to co-sponsor legislation to extend the sunset date by two years. There are discussions underway to seek support of Senator Boatwright, Senator Johanneson and Assemblyman Bowler. The next step will be to contact Assemblyman Hannigan and Assemblyman Machado for their support. I have no bill number at this time, but will pass that on to you.

HANDOUT: Copy of letter from Clarksburg General Plan Committee supporting the extension of the Commission's sunset date.

Sacramento County: The County staff is still discussing the County's submittal. A senior staff meeting was scheduled for today; I will find out tomorrow the result of that meeting.

I sent today letters to the Cities of Rio Vista and Stockton reminding them of their responsibilities under the Act. Those letters were reviewed by the Attorney General's office and the Chairman.

FPPC Submittals: Due APRIL 4. Went out Jan 16, a blank and last year's submittal; only need to declare Delta holdings and income; send back to Walnut Grove, we forward to FPPC. Call if need help.

No SJMAD study this year; maybe last year.

Re: DU grant program: still don't know about funding, may not be a grant program this year.

New Wetlands Home page on the CERES data base. Includes information about various wetlands, wetlands programs, mitigation banks, and permitting.

HANDOUT: As noted by Commissioner Broddrick, the Yolo County HCP has been released. I have distributed to you a copy of the Executive Summary. The purpose of the is to coordinate mitigation for the expected loss of habitat due to planned developed in the County's General Plan. The project will result in streamlining for development, but will be expensive. The recommended mitigation is one to one for loss of habitat on agricultural land, or an in lieu fee of \$2,630 per acre.

HANDOUT: CALFED Scoping Meetings in April to discuss alternatives, which have not yet been developed. A Delta session will be held on April 10. I and the Commissioners involved--McCarty and Potter-- will update you on the alternatives developed.

Central Valley Regional Board water quality studies: On the January 25-26 agenda, the Board is receiving reports prepared with federal funds received in 1989 to study water quality of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins. Five staff reports were produced. The Basin Plan says there shall be no chronic toxicity in receiving waters.

For the Sacramento River basin, the studies found that drain water from rice fields can be found as far downstream as Rio Vista. The nine Delta sites studied showed to see if the water was toxic to three species. The studies show that "in summary, it appears that Delta waters were generally not toxic to fathead minnows, although intermittent impairments were detected." That rice pesticides affect Delta water test sites for ceriodaphnia. The algae studied was generally good in the Delta waters.

For the San Joaquin River watershed, there were no problem for the fathead minnows in the rivers, but there are problems in the smaller tributaries, possibly associated with ammonia from dairy and/or municipal wastewater treat plant effluent. There were two occasions of toxicity at New Jerusalem Drain ascribed to illegal disposal of pesticides. For the ceriodaphia, there were 6 to 9 really bad days, the most problems were at the three San Joaquin River stations located between the confluence of the Merced and Stanislaus Rivers--a 43 mile long stretch. The alga tested poorly in the Mendota Pool water; much better downstream. The cause of the poor performance is not known.

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8. Pending Projects Memo.

PAT: This memo is circulated for Commission and public information. Are there any questions of staff (No action.)

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9. Briefing on the DeltaKeeper Program.

There is a new non-profit program now operating on the Delta waterways. Here tonight to explain the program is the DeltaKeeper--Bill Jennings. Mr. Jennings...

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Are there any questions of Mr. Jennings?

Any public comment on the DeltaKeeper Program?

Thank you to Mr. Jennings and public that commented.

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10. Briefing, Public Hearing and Discussion of Abandoned Vessels in Delta Waterways.

PAT: Staff will present information on this topic, we will then open the floor to public comment. Finally, the Commission may discuss the topic.

MARGIT: Thank you Mr. Chairman, I prepared a brief report on the topic of abandoned vessels. Before I start, I want you to note a letter submitted by Chris Lauritzen on this topic which was handed out at tonight's meeting. Sally Shanks, who can not be here tonight, commented that there is a need to designated a holding area where vessels can be stored in the water, while ownership issues are sorted out.

This topic has been raised by both landowners and the boating community as a problem. I have a correction: on page 1, the cost of registering a vessel is \$9.00, not \$15.00.

There are many, many boats registered in the five Delta counties. In addition, boats registered in other counties travel to the Delta. As these boats age, some lose value. For many boats, it gets to the point that these "junkers" are not worth any money, cannot be sold, and then are abandoned in the Delta waterways. These abandoned vessels can become navigation hazards; can break up and release toxic materials--oil, gas, asbestos, etc; can become an attractive nuisance.

There are laws on the books that give authority to state and local agencies to remove these vessels. There is not currently any funding program to pay the costs of removal and disposal; and those costs can be high, up to several thousands of dollars.

The focus of concerns I have heard to date include:

1. The lack of funds to tow, store, and pay for removal and disposal of abandoned vessels.
2. The lack of sites to safely and securely store vessels which have been towed.
3. The laws which currently protect the rights of the boatowner, but which do not address the "junk" which is of concern in the Delta waterways. The current laws require extensive posting and waiting periods, extensive search and notice requirements, which really do not apply to the "junk" boats.

The discussion tonight is to allow those with a concern a chance to air those concerns, and to promote discussion between various levels of government regarding developing a solution to the problem.

I would be glad to answer any questions.

PAT: Let's open the public hearing. Please come to the podium and state your name and address for the record.

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PAT: I'm going to close the public hearing and bring the discussion to the Commission.

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11. Commissioner Comments

PAT: Any comments or announcements from the members of the Commission?

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12. Adjourn.

PAT: The meeting is adjourned.

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